2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

27 April 2010

Original: English

New York, 3-28 May 2010

Working paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

1. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, as reaffirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, constitutes an important disarmament measure, enhances regional and global peace and security, and reinforces the non-proliferation objective. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia are all effective initiatives towards the attainment of a world entirely free from nuclear weapons.

2. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been the long-standing goal of the people of the region. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, which was followed by the resolution of the General Assembly. The establishment of such a zone in the Middle East will strengthen security and stability in the region.

3. The resolution on the Middle East, as reaffirmed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is an essential element of the package of agreements of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, and the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995.

4. The 2000 Review Conference called upon all States in the Middle East, without exception, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under the full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Conference also emphasized the importance of the Zionist regime's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

Israeli nuclear weapons programme as the main obstacle to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region

5. Despite repeated calls by the international community, as demonstrated in the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

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Weapons, and related resolutions of the General Assembly, IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Zionist regime has neither acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor has it placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. This regime has continued to refuse to even declare its intention to do so. It should be underlined that this regime is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East region. Its nuclear weapons activities, with the support of the United States, seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security, and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

6. The brutal attacks and aggressions by the Israeli regime against its neighbours under absurd pretexts, the killing of civilians, including women and children in Gaza, with prohibited and devastating weapons, and the defiance of all calls by the international community to stop the bloodshed of the innocent people are all evidence of the grave threat posed by such an aggressive regime. It is needless to say how much nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could endanger regional and international peace and security. This regime is the only one with a dark record of attacking nuclear facilities of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and that continues to threaten to attack IAEA-safeguarded peaceful nuclear facilities of other States in the region.

7. The recent resolutions of the IAEA General Conference on the nuclear capabilities of the Zionist regime (GC(53)/RES/17) and the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (GC(53)/RES/16) are other manifestations of international concern over the threat posed by the nuclear weapon programme of this regime to regional and international peace and security, and as the main obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

8. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, recalling the obligation of all States parties under articles I, II and III of the Treaty, called upon all States parties not to cooperate or give assistance in the nuclear or nuclear-related field to States not parties to the Treaty in a manner that would assist them in manufacturing nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices. Unfortunately, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons programme implemented by the Zionist regime has given that regime the audacity to explicitly acknowledge the possession of nuclear weapons. That acknowledgment was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement in a statement issued on 5 February 2007. This Review Conference should also condemn this regime for its defiance of international calls and urge it to immediately stop its nuclear weapons activities. Moreover, the Security Council should fulfil its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate actions accordingly.

9. An agreed plan of action for the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be on the agenda of all States parties to the Treaty, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty promptly and without condition, and to place all its facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards without delay. Unconditional adherence by that regime to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the conclusion of a full-

scope safeguards agreement with IAEA would, undoubtedly, lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

10. In this regard, the sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, based on the agreed package of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, have the main responsibility to take concrete steps to implement their commitments under this resolution. Proposals such as convening a conference of all members of the region is not in line with this resolution and, as the futile experience of IAEA of convening a forum in this regard has shown, such initiatives would not be fruitful, but rather could undermine the achievement of that aim.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country of the region must acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices on its territory or under its jurisdiction or control, and all countries of the region should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Conferences to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and agreements contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The Review Conference should also make recommendations on the measures to compel the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under the full scope of IAEA safeguards to pave the way for the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

13. Owing to the importance of the Middle East region and in order to strengthen the realization of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the agreements contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all State parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, as sponsors of the 1995 Middle East Resolution, should continue to report their measures on the implementation of that Resolution through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

14. The Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the agreements of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in this regard and to report to the State parties to the Treaty.